Constitution of a Committee consisting of Judges and lawyers at the appropriate level for dealing with the underlying causes for lawyers' strikes and for evolving appropriate guidelines for preventing indiscriminate closure of courts.

Strength of Judges in Allahabad High Court

619. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of Judges in the Allahabad High Court and the number of Judges sitting now both at Allahabad and Lucknow benches;

(b) whether 5.5 lakh cases are pending with the Allahabad High Court;

(c) whether it is a fact that the lawyers of this judicature have complained of red-tapism, manipulation in the registration of cases and delay in procurement of records etc.; and

(d) if so, what measures Government have taken and propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Muslim Law relating to divorce

620. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any change in the Muslim Law relating to divorce, to bring it in line with the common marriage and divorce law of land, after eliciting opinions of the minority Community in view of the judgement of the apex body of Muslim religious scholars declaring the pronouncement of 'talaq' three times at one sitting by a husband, as invalid and ineffective; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Compulsory retirement of Judicial Officers

621. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi High Court has recently decided to compulsory retire some Judicial Officers of the National Capital Territory of Delhi to weed out corruption from the lower courts;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to advise all the High Courts in the country to initiate similar action; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Delhi High Court, which under Article 235 of the Constitution is vested with control over the District Courts and Courts subordinate thereto, constituted a Committee to screen the record of work and conduct of all the Judicial Officers of Delhi who had or were completing the age of 50/55 years or 30 years service or 30 years qualifying service for pension. Based on the recommendation of the Committee, the full Court recommended to the Appointing Authority i.e. Administrator, National Capital Territory of Delhi, to retire four Judicial Officers in public interest. The officers were accordingly retired with effect from 1-6-1993.

(c) and (d) The matters relating to recruitment, removal and control etc. of the District Courts and Courts subordinate thereto of a State are the concern of the respective State Government and High Court in accordance with the provisions of Articles 233 to 235 of the Constitution of India.

Civil cases in Delhi District Court

622. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many Civil Cases are pending in the Delhi District Court which are more than ten years old;

(b) the increase in these cases during the last 75 days since the date of strike by the lawyers; and

(c) what steps are being taken to resolve the deadlock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bye election to Ottappalam Lok Sabha Constituency

623. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for postponing the bye election to Lok Sabha for the Ottappalam parliamentary constituency in Kerala State after fixing the election for 19th May, 1993; and

(b) when the bye election to Lok Sabha from Ottappalam constituency is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The bye election to Lok Sabha for the Ottappalam Parliamentary Constituency was postponed by the Election Commission as, on the basis of reports received by it from various sources, it was satisfied that in the then existing law and order situation, it was not possible to hold a peaceful, free and fair poll in that Parliamentary Constituency.

(b) 19th August, 1993.

New Companies Bill (1993)

624. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the New Companies Bill (1993) the ceiling imposed on an investment company in respect of the subscribed capital of investee company has been reduced from 25 per cent to ten per cent;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that it is against decontrol, delicensing deregulation and debureaucratisation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposed change in the definition of 'investment company' in the Explanation to sub-clause (11) of Clause 389 of the Companies Bill, 1993 is based on the report of the Sachar Committee which recommended that investment companies may not be allowed to operate as an instrument of insidious corporate control.

Committee examining requirements and capability of airport

625. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee appointed to examine the present and future requirements of airlines and the capability of airports to fulfil them has submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the findings and recommendations thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No such Committee has been constituted by the Department of Civil Aviation.

Cost Audit Rules

626. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major consumer items which are not subject to cost audit so far and when they would be brought under cost audit;

(b) whether it is a fact that cost audit report rules are having a number of lacuna and amendments to these rules which were proposed have been shelved;

(c) what is the progress of amendment to the rules and bringing new rules during the last two years including the current year;

(d) whether it is a fact that the officers of Cost Audit branch of this Ministry visit various companies;

(e) what are the details of the companies visited so far and what was the purpose of these visits; and

(f) what are the findings of the officers in respect of each company and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The list of products including the major consumer items which are subject to cost audit till date are given in the Statement-I *(See below)*. Selection of various products for cost audit is a continuous process and cost accounting records rules for such products are framed